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U.S. Opposes Aid Cut Against Chile's Junta

The U.S. government opposed any aid cut in response to reports of torture and other human rights violations in Chile, according to William D. Rogers, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs.

Rogers told a Senate appropriations subcommittee hearing Friday on U.S.-Latin American relations that such violations "are more effectively dealt with by means other than absolute sanctions."

Several independent groups and the Human Rights Commission of the Organization of American States have reported widespread abuses in Chile. Opponents of the ruling military junta have called repeatedly for a cutoff of U.S. aid. State Department figures show that $20.2 million in arms and economic aid was supplied in fiscal 1974.

The hearing was called to discuss 33 recommendations of the Commission on United States-Latin American Relations, including normalization of relations with Cuba and an end to both overt and covert U.S. intervention in Latin American affairs.

A spokesman for Sen. Lawton Chiles (D-Fla.) said after the hearing that the senator would introduce an omnibus bill seeking to implement most of the recommendations in a form that would "be a coherent statement of the 'new dialogue'" with Latin America. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger has used that phrase to describe current U.S. policy in the area.